

Minutes of the Regional Planning Commission
Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
Lake County Division of Transportation Libertyville, IL

The Regional Planning Commission met with the following in attendance:

Members Present:

Marvin Raymond – Chair
~~Charles J. Lucas~~ – Vice Chair
Craig Ellison
Lawrence Falbe
Paul Geiselhart
~~William Holleman~~
~~Donald Klein~~
Rory Klick
Marie Lyons
Jordan Madorsky
~~Lorraine Ray~~
Bryan Rouse
~~Terry L. Weppeler~~
Charles Willms

Planning Staff:

Megan Krueger
Bill Hunt
David Husemoller
Philip Rovang

Ex-Officios:

Others:

Pat Carey, Lake County Board Member

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – the meeting was officially called to order by Chairman Raymond at 4:02 pm.

2.0 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2.1 Motion: Motion to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2009 Regional Planning Commission Special Call Meeting as amended.

Made by: Commissioner Ellison

Seconded by: Commissioner Geiselhart

Action: Approved unanimously.

2.2 Motion: Motion to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2009 Regional Planning Commission Meeting.

Made by: Commissioner Willms

Seconded by: Commissioner Ellison

Action: Approved unanimously.

3.0 ADDED TO AGENDA ITEMS - None

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

5.0 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - None

6.0 PLAN REVIEWS AND HEARINGS – None

7.0 OLD BUSINESS - None

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

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8.1 Local Food Policy in Lake County

Mr. David Husemoller reviewed key findings with regard to sustainable agriculture and locally grown food with the Commission. He reminded the Commissioners of their assigned tasks, and provided them with a list of possible recommendations for the formulation of policies to return to the Planning, Building and Zoning Committee.

Commissioner Klick entered the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Commissioner Lyons stated that if there are any steps the Commission can take that would impact sustainable agriculture, they should be taken.

Commission Geiselhart stated that the zoning regulations pertaining to agriculture and the needs of the growers should be evaluated and if necessary, altered to assist in the process.

Commissioner Ellison stated that he would support a tax break for farmers, but the monetary effect on the tax revenues for the County should also be evaluated. A more complete and precise definition of agriculture may be an avenue to investigate to accomplish this benefit.

Mr. Bill Hunt suggested an example recommendation the Commission could return to the PB&Z Committee would be to assess the interest among the municipalities to work in conjunction with the County to study local food production. This would produce an intergovernmental discussion with the possibility of an agreement regarding the principles of local food production. Each jurisdiction could later establish an ordinance to support sustainable agriculture within their boundaries; at the very least this would initiate discussions on local food production across the County.

Commissioner Madorsky stated that he felt the group was twenty-steps ahead of the process; he asked the Commission to evaluate the first step in the strategy and build the goals for sustainable agriculture from that point.

Commissioner Klick explained that one of the problems facing individuals who wish to enter into a career in agriculture is the price of the land within Lake County. Available land is also an issue for those individuals with low income who wish to supplement their own food supply by growing a garden of fresh fruits and vegetables. These individuals may not even own a home, and therefore, do not have the land to cultivate. In the latter instance, the available acres owned by the Forest Preserve would be an ideal solution.

Mr. David Husemoller suggested that one of the avenues that could be taken by the Commission would be to recommend the formation of a Food Policy Task Force or Council that would work on an intergovernmental basis with interested parties. The RPC could also consider policy recommendations in the areas of land use and zoning.

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Commissioner Rouse suggested that the Commission proceed through the process as an interested party to determine what barriers may be encountered; multiple fictitious projects may be needed, but this would assist the Commissioners in making recommendations to support the initiative.

Mr. Philip Rovang commented that the State Legislation that creates a Regional Planning Commission states that the Commission's purpose is to create plans for the County that would be presented for adoption. There is no responsibility to create or amend ordinances. Lake County wants the Regional Planning Commission to be involved in reviewing proposed amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance, but it is not required by State law.

Commissioner Rouse stated that the goal for the Commission is to produce a plan for a pilot program; not to place it into operation. A plan has a goal and a path on which to arrive at the goal. To this point the group has not even identified the goal except in very broad terms. He went on to state that when the Commission was producing the Framework Plan it was done in sections; vision, plan, and policies. He suggested this task be completed in the same manner.

Commissioner Lyons stated that the list of draft recommendations provided to the Commission is a great start. She suggested that the Commissioners review this list and make alterations/corrections as necessary.

Motion: Items one through seven on the list of draft recommendations provided to the Commission be presented to the PB&Z Committee from the RPC.
Made by: Commissioner Lyons
Seconded by: Commissioner Madorsky
Action: Withdrawn

Commissioner Madorsky requested that evaluation of liability issues pertaining to sustainable agriculture be included in the recommendations to the PB&Z Committee.

Commissioner Geiselhart asked that job training for consumer and commercial agriculture also be included in the recommendations.

Commissioner Rouse suggested an alternative wording for the motion as follows: The Regional Planning Commission recommends that the County evaluate recommendations one through seven, and that the County consider recommendations eight through twelve. The RPC recommends the formation of the Lake County Food Policy Council to address these policies more comprehensively and report back to the Regional Planning Commission and the Planning Building and Zoning Committee to assist in this evaluation and the Food Policy Council be responsible for the development of a communication network to inform the public of local food availability, as well as, the agencies involved in the coordination. The Regional

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Planning Commission further recommends that the County encourage local government participation.

Commissioner Geiselhart suggested that the development of a website would be a great way to form the communication network and to let the public know of the anticipated food supply that would result from this initiative.

Chairman Raymond stated that the liability issues were not included in the revised motion.

Mr. Philip Rovang suggested that the liability issues become a revised recommendation number eight, and then renumber the remaining recommendations.

Chairman Raymond stated that recommendations eight through twelve become nine through thirteen, and the formation of the Lake County Food Policy Council become recommendation number fourteen.

Motion: The Regional Planning Commission recommends that the County evaluate recommendations one through eight, and that the County consider recommendations nine through fourteen. The RPC recommends the formation of the Lake County Food Policy Council to address these policies more comprehensively and report back to the Regional Planning Commission and the Planning Building and Zoning Committee to assist in this evaluation. The Regional Planning Commission further recommends that the County encourage local government participation. (The final version of the recommendations is included with these minutes beginning on page 6).

Made by: Commissioner Rouse
Seconded by: Commissioner Lyons
Action: Approved unanimously.

Mr. Rovang suggested that Mr. Husemoller rewrite the formal motion and distribute to the Commissioners in the next couple of days. He went on to say that this presentation could be made before the PB&Z Committee on November 3, 2009. He suggested that it would be positive to have a couple of members of the Regional Planning Commission available at the PB&Z Committee meeting on this morning.

Commissioner Klick stated that she would be pleased to attend the meeting, and will make arrangements for coverage for her class so that she can be present.

Chairman Raymond stated that he will also be present on November 3, 2009 for the presentation to the PB&Z Committee.

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Chairman's Report – None

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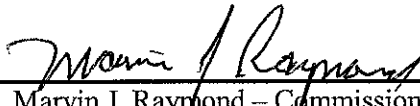
9.2 Commissioners' Comments - None


9.3 Director's Report

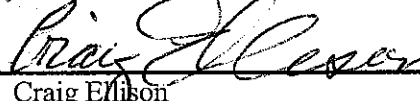
9.4 Ex-Officio Reports - None

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the October 20, 2009, RPC Meeting at 5:50 p.m.
Made by: Commissioner Willms
Seconded by: Commissioner Madorsky
Action: Approved unanimously



Marvin J. Raymond - Commission Chairman


Charles J. Lucas - Vice-Chairman

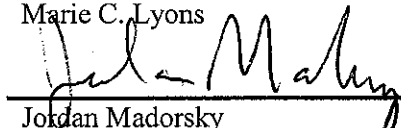

Craig Ellison

Paul Geiselhart

William Holleman

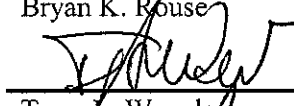
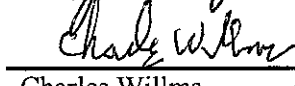
Donald P. Klein

Megan Krueger - Recording Secretary


Rory Klick

Marie C. Lyons

Jordan Madorsky

~~Loraine A. Ray~~

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Lake County should:

1. Review Land Use and Zoning policies to identify barriers to local commercial and hobby growing of fruits and vegetables and adopt amendments to remove those barriers
2. Review the *Regional Framework Plan* to identify and implement policies that encourage local food production
3. Publicize tax valuation procedures more clearly for Lake County residents who are involved with commercial agriculture and seeking property tax relief
4. Promote economic development and job training in agriculture
5. Promote the use of open land for local food, such as:
 - a. Forest Preserve District lands (currently in corn and soybean production)
 - b. Community and institutional gardens
 - c. Park districts and school yards
 - d. Floodplain properties (identified by the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission)
 - e. Private properties (e.g. ComEd rights-of-way and vacant lots)
6. Identify liability issues of growing food on lands owned by other entities
7. Suggest ways that state funded Lake County institutions can purchase 10% of food from local sources, in compliance with the Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act (2009) by 2020.

The Regional Planning Commission recommends that County staff be primarily responsible for implementing the above recommendations, however they would benefit from assistance from other organizations in local food production and distribution.

The following recommended actions are outside the typical purview of county government, but could be performed by other local organizations with the encouragement of Lake County.

8. Increase access to training for commercial and home food growers
9. Improve access to small business loans for beginning farmers
10. Identify strategies to improve the limited infrastructure for processing and distributing local produce
11. Coordinate Lake County's farmers' markets in order to:
 - a. Improve access across communities
 - b. Facilitate use of LINK card access
 - c. Create common standards for products being sold
12. Identify opportunities to promote CSAs (Community Sustained Agriculture)
13. Address disparities in access to locally grown fresh food across Lake County, in light of the incidence of obesity and type II diabetes, particularly in lower income communities
14. Improve countywide communication to inform the public of the opportunities and benefits for local food production and consumption
15. Encourage municipal participation

The Regional Planning Commission recommends the Lake County Board create a **Lake County Local Food Policy Council** to address all of the above recommendations in a collaborative and comprehensive manner, together with County, municipal, agricultural and nutrition-related partners.

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The Regional Planning Commission recommends inviting the representatives from organizations that have appeared before the Regional Planning Commission this summer and others that support local food production and distribution to participate in the Lake County Food Policy Council. The Regional Planning Commission recommends that the Lake County Local Food Policy Council make periodic reports back to the Regional Planning Commission and the Planning, Building and Zoning Committee.